



**CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
McDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

November 1, 2012

**Florence Ely Nelson Desert Park
8950 E. Pinnacle Peak Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85255**

PRESENT: James Heitel, Chairman
Fred Klein, Vice Chairman
Marg Nelssen, Commissioner
Robert Frost, Commissioner
Con Englehorn, Commissioner
Mike Milillo, Commissioner

ABSENT: Susan Wheeler, Commissioner

STAFF: Bill Murphy
Kroy Ekblaw
Scott Hamilton
Claire Miller
Liz Hildenbrand

GUESTS: Mike Nolan
Howard Myers
Jack McEnroe

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Heitel called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present as noted above.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the Regular Meeting minutes of October 4, 2012

Chair Heitel requested that it be noted in the minutes that the Commission discussed the benefits of having annual wildlife surveys and that they expressed a desire to ensure that if funds are not available through the normal channels the Preserve fund would be used.

COMMISSIONER FROST MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 4, 2012, MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. COMMISSIONER ENGLEHORN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). COMMISSIONER WHEELER WAS ABSENT.

5. MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Mr. Nolan noted that a survey of large mammals will be conducted between January 7th and 17th, 2013. It is anticipated that there will be a survey conducted annually for at least the next five or six years. He said that Pathfinders and Patrol are in full swing and the second month of new steward orientations will finish on Saturday. Both sessions combined will result in approximately 40 new stewards. The first night insect collection will be held on Sunday, November 4th.

Mr. Nolan announced that the research information compiled by stewards about Stoneman Road has been compiled digitally into a collection called "The Stoneman Road Compendium" and the plan is to make a generic version available to the public through the library and historical societies. The complete version containing specifics about locations, found items, et cetera, will be kept for viewing only by those who have been vetted. There are no plans for publication at this time.

6. NORTH AREA POLICIES DISCUSSION

- Trail Use

Mr. Hamilton discussed the history behind the development of the Conceptual Trails Plan for the Northern Region of the Preserve, which was recommended by the McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission and approved by City Council in August 2012. He reviewed the allowable uses, restrictions, and public concerns about trail sharing and trail etiquette as well as concerns related to allowing trails in washes.

Discussion ensued regarding questions that should be considered regarding trails in the North Area, including the use of washes for equestrian trails, whether opportunities are available for all user groups, possible real or perceived conflicts, limiting user groups on certain trails, and education and outreach. It was the consensus of the Commission to leave the trail policies the way they are, provide signage and education, and remain cognizant of the various user groups' concerns.

7. LAND ACQUISITION UPDATE

Mr. Ekblaw noted that the request to bid on the State Land was approved by City Council. Approval of payment is scheduled to be considered by City Council in two weeks and the three auctions are scheduled at the State Land Department on the day before Thanksgiving.

8. FUTURE ACQUISITION PRIORITIES

Mr. Ekblaw presented a map of the areas of the Preserve as they were prioritized by the MSPC in September of 2009, explaining the justification for each area's classification. Discussion ensued regarding the scenic corridors and the logic behind acquiring those parcels versus waiting to acquire the rights from future developers.

The Commission requested that staff schedule a tour of the parcels sometime in December.

9. PRESERVE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Murphy reviewed the Community Services Division Organization Chart as it was in 2009 compared to now in 2012. He assured the Commission that the Preserve will not be merged with Parks and Recreation and Ms. Hildenbrand will be responsible for the day to day Preserve operations; however, utilizing existing support staff will create efficiencies. He confirmed that Ms. Hildenbrand's position will remain budgeted under Parks and Recreation and noted that additional funds will be requested specifically for the Preserve during the City Council budget review.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments and expressed concerns.

Howard Myers spoke regarding the history behind the formation of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, which was originally modeled after the preserve in Boulder, Colorado. He suggested that issues created in Boulder are a good example of what can happen when parks and recreation and the preserve are merged, because there are opposing goals and strategies. He stressed the importance of maintaining minimal impact in the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

10. STAFF REPORTS

- **Construction**
 - **Tom's Thumb**

Mr. Hamilton said that the construction at Tom's Thumb has been completed.

- **Brown's Ranch**

Mr. Hamilton said that construction is progressing and completion is expected in early summer with the grand opening projected for October 2013.

- **North Area Trails**

Mr. Hamilton noted that the first job orders for the trail builders will include the center area around Brown's Ranch and the areas near Fraesfield and Granite. The analysis

and assessment phase of those areas will be done over the next few months with trail rerouting, rebuilding, and repair beginning the first of the year.

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions. The Commission discussed issues related with eco-friendly lavatories at Lost Dog and potential options for providing drinking water at the Tom's Thumb trailhead.

- **Other**

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no additional Commissioner comments.

12. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY 7, 2013

Possible agenda items include:

Tour - December (?)

Election of Officers

Ethics Training

Scottsdale Leadership Principles for Civil Dialogue Initiative

Future Land Cost Benefit Study Process - Spring

In addition to the scheduled items, Mr. Ekblaw confirmed that a tour of the land acquisition priority areas would be scheduled just before sunset on a weekday sometime in December.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
A/V Tronics, Inc. DBA AVTranz.